



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

\*\*\***NEWS RELEASE**\*\*\*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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CONTACT: Patrick Gasper, Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

## Wisconsin is best in the Midwest on AP Report to the Nation

*State's Advanced Placement participation improves for all student groups*

MADISON—Wisconsin's participation in Advanced Placement (AP) testing increased across all student groups, establishing the state as the best in the 13-state Midwest Region for graduates taking an AP exam during high school.

In the Annual AP Report to the Nation, by the College Board, Wisconsin had 14,547 (23.9 percent) of its public school graduates take an AP exam while in high school, with 16.5 percent earning a passing grade of three or higher. In the Midwest Region, only Illinois and Minnesota had more than 20 percent of their graduates taking exams.

"We have much to be proud of," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "Our work to bring rigor and relevance to high school through advanced coursework is building success. More students are taking and passing AP exams. AP provides a rigorous academic experience that supports our efforts to raise achievement for all students and close the achievement gap."

Participation in AP testing by low-income students increased to 4.9 percent of all public school test-takers in 2007, up 0.2 of a point from last year and 2.3 points from 2002. The state is expanding opportunities for students from economically disadvantaged families to request test fee waivers to ensure that economic circumstance does not block a student's opportunity to demonstrate academic achievement through AP.

### Midwest Region Public Schools

Percent of 2006-07 Graduates

State	Taking an	
	AP Exam in High School	Earning 3 or Higher
Illinois	22.0	14.9
Indiana	19.0	9.7
Iowa	12.2	8.0
Kansas	12.5	7.8
Michigan	19.7	12.8
Minnesota	21.6	13.4
Missouri	10.6	6.7
Nebraska	10.0	5.9
North Dakota	10.5	7.4
Ohio	18.0	11.0
South Dakota	15.5	9.7
West Virginia	15.2	7.0
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>16.5</b>
Regional Average	16.2	10.1

(more)

Students of color represented 9.1 percent of all Wisconsin test-takers in 2007, up 0.1 of a point from the previous year. Overall, 22,656 public school students in the state took 36,094 AP exams during the 2006-07 school year, posting a passing rate of 67.8 percent. Nationally, 1.2 million public school students took 2.1 million AP exams last school year. The passing rate nationally was 57.2 percent.

The College Board, in partnership with the nation's colleges and universities, offers assessments of college-level learning in 37 subject areas. These AP exams are intended as end-of-course assessments for classes designed to have a level of quality and academic intensity similar to college-level work. Scored from one to five, grades of three or higher are considered passing and qualify students for college credit, placement, or both at most colleges and universities. This is the fourth year the College Board has re-analyzed its summer AP data to provide a winter report focused on high school graduates.

The Department of Public Instruction, using a grant from the National Governors Association, worked with nine pilot districts over the past two years to expand AP coursework. A key strategy from that grant, vertical teams, is expanding across the state to help districts build capacity for AP coursework. Vertical teams bring together subject area teachers, typically in middle school and high school, to develop greater continuity and depth in the curriculum to ensure that students gain the foundational skills they need to succeed in more rigorous coursework in high school and beyond.

"Through cooperative efforts to improve access to Advanced Placement, educators also are focusing on inclusion so that all students can benefit from a rich and rigorous curriculum," Burmaster said. "Our goal is to provide students with the concepts, skills, and academic habits that will allow them to engage in demanding coursework."

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**NOTE:** Additional tables with information on the *Fourth Annual AP Report to the Nation* and AP participation in Wisconsin during the 2006-07 school year follow. This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008\\_29.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_29.pdf). Please contact school districts for local AP information.

# Fourth Annual AP Report to the Nation

## Public School Students

<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Graduates Taking an AP Exam	8,907	10,260	12,286	12,878	13,572	14,547
Percent Taking an AP Exam	15.2	16.9	20.0	21.1	22.6	23.9
Percent Earning Grades of 3-5	10.5	11.8	13.7	14.5	15.7	16.5
<b>Nation</b>						
Graduates Taking an AP Exam	405,475	473,330	558,993	609,807	649,476	698,182
Percent Taking an AP Exam	15.9	18.1	20.9	22.7	23.6	24.9
Percent Earning Grades of 3-5	10.2	11.7	13.2	14.1	14.7	15.2

**NOTE:** The College Board has not yet provided public school graduate test-taking data for 2003.

## 2006-07 Advanced Placement in Wisconsin

### 2007 AP Program

#### Public Schools

	<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>Nation</b>
Number of Candidates	22,656	1,239,336
Number of Exams	36,094	2,133,594
Number of Grades 3-5	24,469	1,221,255
Percent Earning Grades of 3-5	67.8	57.2

### AP Participation by Low-Income Students\*

#### Public School Students

<b>Year</b>	<b>Advanced Placement Exam-Takers</b>		
	<b>Total Takers</b>	<b>Low-Income</b>	<b>Percent</b>
2002	14,918	382	2.6
2003	16,178	517	3.2
2004	17,941	719	4.0
2005	19,174	787	4.1
2006	21,178	1,005	4.7
2007	22,656	1,102	4.9

\*Low-income students are identified by financially motivated exam fee waivers

### AP Participation by Racial/Ethnic Group

#### Public School Students

	<b>Candidates</b>			
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
African American	334	376	427	446
American Indian	78	82	94	112
Asian	680	717	805	873
Hispanic*	376	424	592	637
White	15,796	16,652	18,252	19,826
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,941</b>	<b>19,174</b>	<b>21,178</b>	<b>22,656</b>

**NOTE:** Hispanic includes Mexican American, Puerto Rican, and Other Hispanic. Total will be larger than the sum of student subgroups because not all students identify their racial/ethnic group.

### AP Program Participation 2000-2007

#### Public School Students

<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Number of Candidates	12,604	13,736	14,918	16,178	17,941	19,174	21,178	22,656
Number of Exams	19,012	20,815	22,890	25,253	28,245	30,299	33,411	36,094
Number of Grades 3-5	12,918	13,538	15,926	17,163	19,344	20,308	22,856	24,469
Percent Earning Grades of 3-5	67.9	65.0	69.6	68.0	68.5	67.0	68.4	67.8

**Please contact local school districts for information about  
Advanced Placement participation in your area.**